

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SY-04 USSS-00 SCCT-01 NIC-01 /061 W

----- 085656

R 171030Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2485

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUSSELDORF 1126

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ASEC, GW

SUBJECT: ARSON AT PORTUGUESE CONSULATE GENERAL IN DUESSELDORF

1. ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 11, THE PORTUGUESE CONSULATE GENERAL, LOCATED WITHIN AN OFFICE BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN DUESSELDORF, WAS ENTERED BY UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO SPREAD GASOLINE ON THE PREMISES, IGNITED IT, AND FLED. AN ALERT BYSTANDER PROMPTLY CALLED FIREFIGHTERS, WHOSE EARLY INTERVENTION LIMITED DAMAGES TO TWO AND A HALF ROOMS OF THE NINE-ROOM CONSULATE.

2. PORTUGUESE CONSULATE PERSONNEL TOLD PRESS REPORTERS THEY PRESUMED THE ARSONISTS WERE LEFT WING EXTREMISTS. POLICE TOLD US THE PERPETRATORS AND THEIR MOTIVES WERE UNKNOWN. LOCAL SPECULATION HAS IT THAT CERTAIN EXTREME LEFTWINGERS DESIRED BY ARSON TO MANIFEST THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE "FASCIST" HOLDOVERS FROM THE FORMER PORTUGUESE DICTATORSHIP, POSSIBLY INCLUDING THE LOCAL CONSUL GENERAL, DR. LUIS CORDEIRO. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE ATTACK ON HIS OFFICE CORDEIRO WAS RECALLED BY LISBON AND WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO POST.

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3. POLICE CONSIDER THE ARSON ATTEMPT AS A STRICTLY PORTUGUESE-ORIENTED MATTER, AND PERCEIVE NO CURRENT SIMILAR THREATS AGAINST THE U.S. OR OTHER CONSULATES IN DUESSELDORF.

4. ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 15 A GROUP OF ABOUT 180 LEFTIST SYMPATHIZERS PARTICIPATED IN AN ORDERLY DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE PORTUGUESE CONSULATE TO PROTEST AGAINST "FASCIST" CONSULATE PERSONNEL. THE DEMONSTRATORS, ORGANIZED BY GERMAN COMMUNISTS, WERE MOSTLY OF PORTUGUESE ORIGIN. AN ORATOR DENIED ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE DEMONSTRATION AND LAST WEEK'S ARSON ATTEMPT. HENNEMEYER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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30 JUN 2005

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